HRSC Webmaster's report for period ending November30, 2022.

SUMMARY

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- • A preliminary online payment form for events is working, but release requires a board decision on guest policy.
- •routine website maintenance and eBridge distribution tasks performed; no significant issues.
- • Some progress on website migration to Linux, but Newtek staffing issues continue to cause delay. Hoping for completion by Christmas.

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DETAILS

(1) Online payments.Occasional online dues payments continue to come in without problem. A preliminary online form for event payments is working, but cannot be released as we have no policy for the number of guests allowed, nor what they should pay for. There are three categories of events:
(A) no HRSC or attendee costs, e.g., some museum visits.
(B) All attendees pay the same cost.

(C) Event is subsidized by HRSC, but only for members attending; not guests. This is the most problematic category.

The preliminary version of the form has a field for the number of attendees, and a field for the amount being paid, but how does the member know how many guests are allowed per member, and how much they have to pay? If there is a general policy, it can be put on the website and in this form. If not, then each event chair will have to define a policy in the description for their event, and the online payment form will refer to event descriptions for guest policy.This may result in several different policies.
DECISION FROM BOARD NEEDED: define a general policy or pass responsibility to event chairs.

(2) Website migration to Linux

This was expected to occur in October, but Newtek still has staffing problems and is dysfunctional in places. Migration work requested on Sep 25 has still not started, but we have had some discussion, and agreed the Linux hosting plan to be used. The annual cost of website hosting, SSL certificate and mailing lists will be $180, which is less than the $264.49
we have been paying, although there will be a one-time migration fee of $130 The Newtek person leading the

migration was meant to contact Tom Sparks three business days after Nov. 22 but never did so. We await a new date. There is no immediate urgency, as we can continue to use Tom Sparks's server for online dues.

Anticipated benefits of the migration, apart from lower annual fees, include full support for PHP, so we will no longer need to use Tom Sparks's server for the online dues payment form, improved reliability of mailing lists, and better support as obsolete and obsolescent hosting elements will be replaced with modern software.

(3) Website maintenance and updates

Did check for bad links, and posted reports and other documents on the Archives page. Created and posted the November online Bridge.

(4) eBridge distribution

The November eBridge was distributed. No problems were reported.